Rail projects under construction

†2219. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many railway projects were under construction in March, 2001;

(b) if so, the total number thereof, the number of projects running behind their original schedule and by how much time; and

(c) the percentage increase in construction cost of each of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Railways has a large shelf of ongoing Railway projects and in March 2001, 281 projects were under construction pertaining to New Lines, Gauge Conversion, Doubling, Metropolitan Transport Projects and Railway Electrification plan heads with an anticipated cost of over Rs. 45,000 Crores. The time over run can be calculated in those cases where the time schedule for completion of the project with matching availability of resources can be planned and assured at the time of taking up of the project. In case of Railway projects, the plan size is determined annually and as such, no estimation of time over run is feasible. Progress of these projects is dependent on availability of funds from year to year.

(c) This would be known as and when project gets completed in all respects depending upon availability of resources in the coming years.

Tatkal Seva

†2220. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) in how many trains in the country, Tatkal Seva reservation facility is available at present;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government propose to provide this facility in the remaining passenger trains also, within a certain time frame; and

(c) if so, the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) At present, reservation facility under Tatkal Scheme is available in 119 trains.

(b) and (c) The extension of Tatkal Scheme to any train or any class of travel depends on the demand pattern and operational feasibility.

Contract for supply of wagons

2221. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Minister has received a letter from a Member of Parliament alleging that a black-listed firm has been given a contract for supply of container flat wagons;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been made into the matter and if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken to prevent the black-listed firm to get the contract?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Some representations were received from Members of Parliament and others in this regard Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR), a PSU under Ministry of Railways issued a Letter of Intent (LOI) on 1.5.2001 for Container Flat Wagons on M/s. Hindustan Engineering Industries (M/s. HEI) which was earlier known as Hindustan Development Corporation (HDC), Kolkata. Issue of LOI constitutes a contract between the parties. The formal agreement between HEI and CONCOR was signed on 07.06.2001. M/s. HDC was found to have used cheaper mild steel in place of specified corten steel against a BOXNHA contract for which the firm has been issued a show cause notice by Ministry of Railways on 03.07.2001. The firm has not been black listed.